

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19749 01 OF 02 180159Z

ACTION DLOS-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12 AGRE-00 AID-05

CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 SOE-02 DOE-15 FMC-01 TRSE-00

H-01 INR-10 INT-05 JUSE-00 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

NSF-01 OES-09 OMB-01 PA-01 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 SMS-01 /151 W

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R 171655Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5728

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 MOSCOW 19749

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS, UR

SUBJECT: "MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN'" ARTICLE ON LOS

SUMMARY: ARTICLE ON LOS IN MONTHLY JOURNAL "MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN'" (ROUGHLY COMPARABLE TO U.S. JOURNAL "FOREIGN AFFAIRS") STRIKES GENERALLY POSITIVE TONE ON LOS NEGOTIATIONS WHILE BASICALLY REITERATING SOVIET POSITION ON LOS ISSUES. ITS REVIEW OF GENEVA SESSION REFLECTS SOVIET CONCERNS OVER MILITARY-STRATEGIC ASPECTS OF LOS NEGOTIATIONS; HOLDS WIDE MARGIN CRITERIA WOULD SEPARATE THIRTY MILLION SQUARE KILOMETERS FROM INTERNATIONAL SEABED AREA; SKIRTS SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ISSUE, SUPPORTS LL/GDS GROUP; AND WELCOMES PROGRESS ON RESOLVING SEABED DIFFERENCES. ARTICLE PREDICTS PREPARATION OF REVISED DRAFT AT NEW YORK SESSION. END SUMMARY.

1. AUGUST EDITION OF "MEZHDUNARODNAYA ZHIZN'" CARRIES ARTICLE ENTITLED "THE LEGAL PROBLEMS OF USING THE WORLD OCEAN," BY S. MOLODTSEV AND I. YAKOVLEV.

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19749 01 OF 02 180159Z

ARTICLE IS SOMEWHAT DATED: YAKOVLEV TOLD EMBOFF IT WAS COMPLETED IN JUNE AND IS MEANT TO PROVIDE SOVIET VIEW OF MARCH 28-MAY 19 GENEVA SESSION. ARTICLE BREAKS NO NEW GROUND, BASICALLY PRESENTS KNOWN SOVIET POSITIONS, AVOIDING DISCUSSION OF SOVIET STAND ON INTENTIONS RE IMPORTANT ISSUES SUCH AS CONTINENTAL SHELF. WE ARE POUCHING INFORMAL

TRANSLATIONS OF ARTICLE TO LOS DELEGATION USUN
AND DEPT. LOS OFFICE.

2. TONE OF ARTICLE IS GENERALLY POSITIVE. ARTICLE
CITES PROGRESS IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT AREAS
DURING SESSION, NOTES KEY PROBLEMS REMAIN AND
CRITICIZES UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS BY "A SMALL GROUP
OF DELEGATIONS TO DISRUPT AGREEMENT AMONG AN OVER-
WHELMING MAJORITY OF CONFERENCE MEMBERS ON A NUMBER
OF IMPORTANT LOS PROBLEMS."

3. SOVIET SENSITIVITIES ON THE MILITARY-STRATEGIC
ASPECTS OF THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS WERE REFLECTED IN:

-- PROMINENCE ARTICLE GIVES TO ATTACKING EFFORTS
BY SOME COASTAL STATES TO EXTEND TERRITORIAL WATERS
BEYOND TWELVE MILES OR TO RESTRICT PASSAGE OF
FOREIGN SHIPS THROUGH THEIR TERRITORIAL WATERS
(ECUADOR, SOMALIA, PERU, INDONESIA AND CANADA ARE
SPECIFICALLY CRITICIZED);

-- CRITICISM OF COUNTRIES SUCH AS CHINA, EGYPT,
SOMALIA, OMAN AND SPAIN FOR ATTEMPTING TO UNDERMINE
FREEDOM OF NAVIGATION IN INTERNATIONAL STRAITS AND
OVERFLIGHT RIGHTS;

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 19749 01 OF 02 180159Z

-- CONSIDERABLE ATTENTION GIVEN TO SUPPORTING SOVIET
POSITION ON THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE TWO-HUNDRED MILE
ZONE. ARTICLE CHARGES "A GROUP OF COASTAL STATES"
WITH SEEKING TO EXTEND THEIR JURISDICTION IN THE
ECONOMIC ZONE AND HOLDS THAT "BIG ECONOMIC AND OTHER
PROBLEMS" UNDERLIE DIFFERENCES IN THIS AREA;

-- CONTENTION THAT WIDE MARGIN CRITERIA FOR CON-
TINENTAL SHELF DELIMITATION WOULD SEPARATE THIRTY
MILLION SQUARE KILOMETERS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL
SEABED AREA;

-- REITERATION OF STRONG SOVIET OPPOSITION TO COM-
PULSORY SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES. ARTICLE ASSERTS THAT
THE IMPOSITION OF ANY COMPULSORY PROCEDURE CONTRARY
TO THE WILL OF THE COUNTRIES CONCERNED IS FRAUGHT
WITH THE MOST NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES AND WOULD CONSTI-
TUTE INTERFERENCE INTO SOVEREIGN AFFAIRS OF THESE
COUNTRIES.

4. SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH: ARTICLE DOES NOT ADDRESS
THIS TOPIC DIRECTLY, ALTHOUGH IN THE COURSE OF

DISCUSSION ON LEGAL STATUS OF THE ECONOMIC ZONE, ARTICLE NOTES THAT THE USSR AND OTHER "SOCIALIST" STATES HAVE "RECOGNIZED" THE "WIDE JURISDICTION" OF COASTAL STATES TO REGULATE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ON CONDITION OF A SIMULTANEOUS MUTUALLY-ACCEPTABLE RESOLUTION OF ALL MAJOR LOS PROBLEMS.(COMMENT: THIS COINCIDES WITH PREVIOUS INDICATIONS THAT SOVIETS MAY BE ANGLING FOR TRADE-OFF ON SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ISSUE. END COMMENT.)

5. LL/GDS VS. COASTAL STATES: ARTICLE REITERATES SOVIET SUPPORT FOR LL/GDS "LEGITIMATE INTERESTS," HOLDS THAT MORE CONCESSIONS SHOULD BE GIVEN TO

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19749 02 OF 02 180158Z
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 MOSCOW 19749

LL/GDS GROUP, AND STATES DISCUSSIONS ON THIS
IMPORTANT TOPIC WILL CONTINUE AT NEW YORK SESSION.

6. FULLY A THIRD OF THE ARTICLE IS DEVOTED TO
A FAIRLY POSITIVE TREATMENT OF THE SEABED MINING
ISSUE. ARTICLE DESCRIBES PROGRESS ON SEABED
QUESTIONS AS THE MOST IMPORTANT RESULT OF THE
GENEVA SESSION. IT RECALLS THAT FAILURE TO INCLUDE
IN ICNT THE COMPROMISE LANGUAGE AGREED ON AT THE
SIXTH SESSION CREATED A PARTICULARLY TENSE ATMOSPHERE

IN THE LOS NEGOTIATIONS. THIS, ARTICLE CONTINUES,
WOULD HAVE PERMITTED THE AUTHORITY TO EXCLUDE
ARBITRARILY STATES FROM SEABED MINING, TO FORCE
STATES TO PROVIDE THE AUTHORITY WITH TECHNOLOGY,
FINANCES OR OTHER RESOURCES, TO MONOPOLIZE SCI-
ENTIFIC RESEARCH ON THE SEABED, AND TO ARBITRARILY
INTERVENE IN SEABED ACTIVITIES NOT RELATED TO
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 19749 02 OF 02 180158Z

MINING. ARTICLE STATES THAT GENEVA CONFERENCE
PRODUCED COMPROMISES ON:

-- EXCLUSION OF "ARBITRARY PROVISIONS" RE
AUTHORITY'S CONTROL OVER TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH;

-- SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL GROUNDS FOR THE AUTHOR-
ITY'S ESTABLISHMENT OF MINING QUOTAS;

-- ACCEPTANCE OF PARALLELISM IN WHICH
STATES AND "OTHER LEGAL SUBJECTS" SPONSORED BY
STATES AS WELL AS THE AUTHORITY CAN MINE THE SEABED.

7. ARTICLE ASSERTS "SIGNIFICANT PROGRESS" WAS MADE
IN A NUMBER OF IMPORTANT MATTERS RELATED TO
AUTHORITY'S BUDGET. IT CRITICIZED "SOME DEVELOPING
AND WESTERN COUNTRIES" FOR ATTEMPTING TO EXPAND
THEIR REPRESENTATION ON THE COUNCIL AND ALTER THE
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

8. ARTICLE CONCLUDES BY ANTICIPATING THE PREPARATION
OF A REVISED JOINT DRAFT AT UPCOMING NEW YORK
SESSION. TOON

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Message Attributes

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